

**COLORADO RIVER RECOVERY PROGRAM
FY-2001 ANNUAL REPORT**

Project No.: PIP 12H

I. Project title: Information and Education Program – Interpretive Signs and Exhibits About the Endangered Fishes of the Upper Colorado River Basin

II. Principal investigator:

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III. Project summary: Interpretive signs and exhibits at museums, visitor centers and other locations are key tools used to educate the general public. Numerous opportunities exist for the Recovery Program to partner with public and private organizations to develop signs and exhibits that will explain the importance of recovering the endangered fishes of the Upper Colorado River Basin and some of the actions taking place to accomplish this. Priority for placement of interpretive signs and exhibits will be given to geographic locations where the majority of Recovery Program efforts are taking place, including Vernal, Utah; Grand Junction, Colorado; and Page, Arizona.

IV. Study Schedule:

Initial year: FY 2001
Final year: FY 2004

V. Relationship to RIPRAP:

VI. INCREASE PUBLIC AWARENESS AND SUPPORT FOR THE ENDANGERED FISHES AND THE RECOVERY PROGRAM.

VI. Accomplishment of FY 2001 objectives and tasks:

- a. Develop a proposal packet that describes various types of signs and exhibits, identifies associated costs and explains the Recovery Program – In the process of pursuing partnerships with other organizations, it was determined that a formal packet as described was not necessary because the organizations contacted were already familiar with the Recovery Program and each potential project required exploration on its own merit as opposed to one sign or exhibit meeting multiple needs.

- b. Identify and contact organizations at targeted locations to discuss creation and placement of interpretive materials – Contacts were made at key locations in the Upper Colorado River Basin including the Grand Valley: Audubon Society Visitor Center, Legacy Committee, Riverfront Trail Master Interpretive Plan, Western Colorado Math & Science Center, Colorado Division of Wildlife, Colorado State Parks and the City of Grand Junction; Yampa Valley: the Carpenter Ranch, the Vernal Museum, Ouray National Wildlife Refuge and Ouray National Fish Hatchery.

These contacts resulted in an agreement between the City of Grand Junction, the Legacy Committee, CDOW, Colorado State Parks, the Bureau of Reclamation and the Recovery Program to create and install interpretive signs along the Colorado Riverfront Trail at the former Jarvis site. The signs will explain the changes in the Colorado River system and the reclamation of this site from a junkyard to backwater nursery habitat for endangered fishes.

In addition, these organizations have agreed to work together to create a master interpretive plan to coordinate the look and content of interpretive exhibits along the entire length of the Colorado Riverfront Trail. The National Park Service submitted a grant request to fund this project. Selection of the grant recipient was put on hold so other avenues are being sought to fund a consultant to head this project.

Efforts are underway to set up a small aquarium with endangered fish at the Nature Conservancy's Carpenter Ranch in Hayden, Colorado.

- c. Request funding assistance from other organizations – A commitment of funds was made for the interpretive sign project at the Jarvis site and to support the Master Interpretive Plan project. (Recovery Program – \$11,000; Bureau of Reclamation – \$5,000; City of Grand Junction – \$5,000; CDOW – \$2,000; Legacy Committee – \$500.)
- d. Develop, place and fund interpretive signs and exhibits – Funds were allocated in FY 2001 to pay for fabrication of 15 sets of interpretive signs that explain the life history and status of the endangered fishes (\$3,000). These signs will be used at hatcheries where endangered fishes are being raised, at the Montrose Pavilion where efforts are underway to display endangered fishes in an aquarium, and at the Nature Conservancy's Carpenter Ranch. They will be ready to install in FY 2002. Funds were obligated to pay for building supplies to construct an information kiosk at the Ouray National Fish Hatchery and for fabrication of interpretive panels for the kiosk (\$6,000). Because the project leader position at this location was vacant, the project was deferred for completion in FY 2002.

- VII. Recommendations: As contacts are made outside of the Recovery Program to identify possible partnerships, numerous opportunities are being discovered. It is important for the Recovery Program to remain focused on the stated goals and objectives for the I&E effort to ensure that placement of signs and other interpretive materials continues to meet the Program's needs. It is also important to make sure that messages conveyed at these exhibits are consistent. The I&E Committee remains committed to community partnerships and continues to look for opportunities to work cooperatively with local groups.
- VIII. Project Status:
On-track and ongoing.
- IX. FY 01 Budget:
- A. Funds Provided: \$30,000
 - B. Funds Expended: \$20,000
 - C. Difference: \$10,000 (Carried over for FY 2002)
 - D. Percent of FY 01 work completed and projected costs to complete: 100%; none.
 - E. Recovery Program funds spent for publication charges: Not applicable.
- X. Status of Data Submission: Not applicable.
- XI. Signed: Debbie Felker January 29, 2002
Info. & Education Coordinator Date